

January 3, 2002

RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767
TDD 401-831-5508

Dear Friends of Agriculture:

The Division of Agriculture, RIDEM is pleased to announce the availability of farm viability grant funds for activities which promote agriculture in Rhode Island, and/or for agricultural education initiatives which support the promotion of agriculture. These funds are made available via a USDA grant to Rhode Island for Specialty Crop promotion. Specialty crops include all commodities produced in Rhode Island.

Funding priority will be given to projects and initiatives which best promote the long term viability of agriculture in Rhode Island. Eligible applicants are agricultural and educational organizations and associations. Grants will not be awarded to individuals unless acting on behalf of an organization or association. Applications submitted jointly, or in coordination among related organizations and associations are encouraged. One application per organization/association is permitted within each of the categories of "agricultural promotion" or "agricultural education". Grant applications will be reviewed by the DEM Agricultural Advisory Committee, who will make funding recommendations to the Division.

Approximately \$300,000 is available in grant funds to be distributed by the Division of Agriculture in calendar year 2002. Awards will generally range from \$3,000 to \$ 10,000, but may be larger for jointly submitted and/or appropriate and worthy projects. There is no match requirement, projects may be funded at 100%, and all funds will be provided up front. Grant funds cannot be used for construction purposes, and may be expended by awardees over several years for multi-year projects.

Interested applicants should fill out and return the attached application to the Division of Agriculture, RIDEM, Room 370, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908. Applications must be received by 4:00 pm, Thursday, February 28th, 2002.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Stephen Volpe, Deputy Chief, (401) 222-2781 ext. 4501 or by e-mail at svolpe@dem.state.ri.us.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM
401-222-2781 (ext. 4500)
kayars@dem.state.ri.us

FARM VIABILITY GRANT APPLICATION

Type of Grant (please circle one): Agricultural Promotion Agricultural Education

- [illegible]

4. What is the objective and final goal of the proposed project?

- 5 What is the estimated time frame for initiation and completion of the project?

Start Date: _____

Estimated Completion Date: _____

- 6 What is the estimated cost of the project? _____
(please attach detailed budget)

Please Note: All applications must be submitted with a W-9 Form Completed. Failure to complete the attached W-9 may delay approval of your grant application

W-9 forms are available at <http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>